

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 7A and 7B. Please find a replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes made.

Remarks

The Patent Office objected to the drawings for failure to include the reference character “76”. Corrected drawing sheets are attached to answer this objection.

The Patent Office objected to Claims 1-56 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. It is respectfully requested that “[s]ome latitude in the manner of expression and the aptness of terms” should be accorded the applicant in describing its inventions in accordance with MPEP 2173.02. Nevertheless, the Applicant has amended the claims along the lines suggested by the Examiner to render the 112 rejections moot.

The Patent Office indicated Claim 15 is allowable, so that claim has been combined with Claim 7 and Claim 1 to place Claims 1-21 in condition for allowance. Claim 26 was also indicated allowable, so that claim has been combined with Claims 25, 24 and 22 to place Claims 22-23 in condition for allowance. Likewise, Claim 40 was indicated allowable, so that claim has been combined with Claims 32 and 27 to place Claims 27-31, 33-39 and 41-50 in condition for allowance.

Claims 51 and 55 were rejected as anticipated by Cotter. Claim 51 has been amended to describe characteristics of the claimed invention that are not even contemplated, much less disclosed, by Cotter and Claims 55-56 have been canceled. Thus, it is submitted that Claims 51-54 are now in condition in condition for allowance over the reference.

Claim 57 is a new claim that describes a conveying belt including, a conveyor belt for conveying items from one end of the conveying belt to a distal end, a deck having opposing sides extending between the one end and the distal end of the conveying belt, and a base coupled to the deck on one of the opposing sides and including a support displaceable from the other of the opposing sides to cantilever the deck from the one side. This combination of elements does not appear to be taught or suggested by the prior art of record, so Claims 57-59 appear to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 60 is a new claim that is a combination of the previous Claims 1, 9, 10 and 11, a combination that was indicated allowable in the office action. Similarly, Claim 61 is a new claim that combines the previous Claims 1, 13 and 14.

Dependent Claims 7, 15, 24-26, 32, 40 and 55-56 have been canceled. New Claims 57-61 have been added, three of which are independent claims.

Thus, it is submitted that, by this amendment, the case is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. However, if any minor issue remains unresolved, a telephone call to the undersigned to expedite allowance and issue would be welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,



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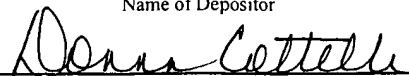
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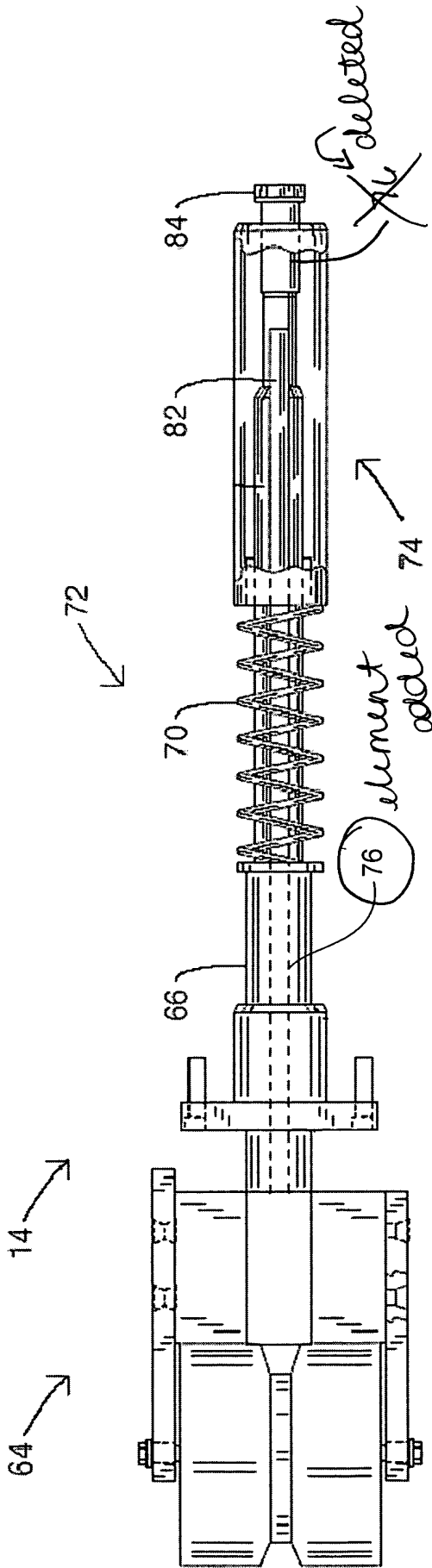


FIG. 7A

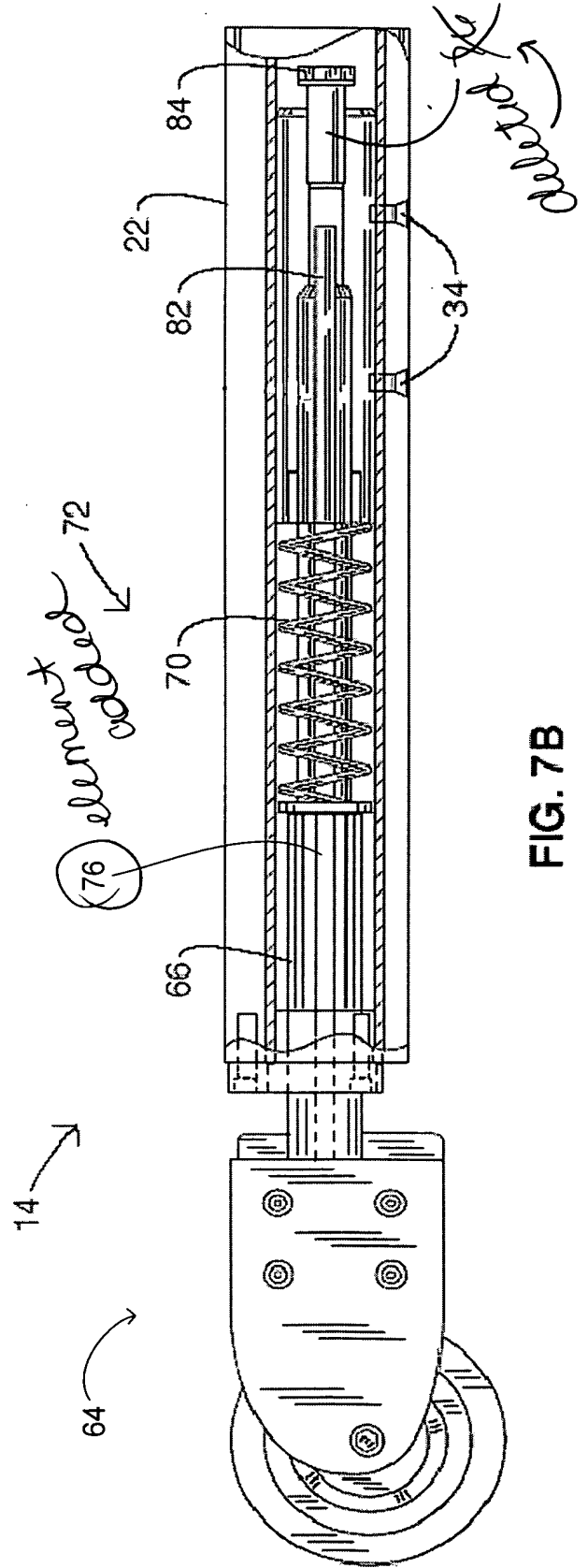


FIG. 7B